

United States Senate

October 10, 2014

James Keefer
District Office Manager
Federal Aviation Administration
Chicago Airports District Office
2300 E. Devon Ave.
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear Mr. Keefer:

Portland Municipal Airport (PLD) located on the northwest edge of Portland Indiana, is an essential component in the economic stability and development of Jay County, where Portland is located. As businesses look to expand, relocate or build new facilities, the quality of the area's transportation infrastructure is a key element in site selection. Jay County is home to a diverse array of manufacturers including those from the agriculture, automotive and packaging sectors. As Senator from Indiana, I understand how crucial air transportation has become for all companies, and its importance in supporting the economic stability of our cities, towns and rural areas. For this reason, I support the PLD Board of Aviation Commissioners and the City of Portland in their effort to extend the runway to accommodate larger aircraft.

Several businesses in and near Jay County are poised to expand operations and bring in much needed jobs, but the 4,000 foot runway is not adequate for the increase in business and the demand for corporate jet traffic. The extension would not only satisfy the needs of current companies operating in the area, but it will likely aid efforts to attract other businesses to the county.

Extending this runway is necessary to meet safety requirements and to help maintain the region's air transportation infrastructure. Because this runway extension is an economic development necessity, I encourage a favorable review of the PLD Board of Aviation Commissioners' request for funding through the Airport Improvement Program. I respectfully request that you grant every consideration consistent with U.S. law and public policy. I would appreciate being informed when a decision about this grant is announced. Questions and announcements can be directed to my office at Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov or by telephone at (317) 226.5555.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator